

THE ALLENS—ARE THEY DESPERATE CRIMINALS, OR JUST VICTIMS OF ISOLATION

Something About the Lives and Loves of the People Who Killed Every Officer of a Court, and One of Whose Women Already Has Paid Toll With Her Life.

Down in a mountain valley of Virginia, a judge and a prosecutor and a sheriff have been shot down in open court.

Vengeance has been sworn, and many men—and women—will die before that vengeance is exacted.

The story reads like the eighteenth century.

The Allens and their kin of the



Governor Mann.

Virginian mountains ARE of the eighteenth century.

As they lived then, as they fought then, as they died then; so they live and fight and die now.

They are big, rough, uneducated men, kindly at heart and possessed of a code of honor and ethics, as strict, and in its way as high, as that of any man's.

Their women are big women,

big of body, big of heart. They love seldom; but when they do love, they love with a passion and a fierceness unknown to women of more "civilized," more "refined" communities. They are most notable for their chastity.

If you were to become lost in the Virginian mountains, and, when nearing exhaustion, were to come suddenly upon some lonely, rough-hewn cabin of the Allens, you would be treated with a courtesy and gentleness greater than the courtesy and gentleness of ballrooms.

The Allens would feed you, and care for you. You would be given a bed if they themselves had to sleep on the floor. The best they had would be yours without the asking, and the only way you could give them offence would be to offer to pay for what you had received at their hands.

Yet these are the same people who now are branded as cold-blooded murderers, and they are the same people who will drench the Virginian mountains with blood before they will allow themselves to be captured.

Yesterday one of them, an old man, was rounded up in his cabin in the depths of the mountains. Two score of detectives ambushed themselves about the cabin and poured a hail of bullets through its roughly built logs.